

Remarks

Claims 1-4, 11-12, 14 and 15 have been cancelled. Claims 5-10 and 13 have been amended to conform to the restriction requirement. Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application to the deleted subject matter.

Applicants hereby affirm the oral election of Group I, claims 5-10, 13, 15 and 16, made by Applicants' representative on November 19, 2004. Group I as defined in the Office Action limits R₂ to imidazoyl groups. Applicants request that variable R₂ be defined broader, as recited in amended Claim 4: "a heteroaryl group comprising two or more ring nitrogen atoms." Applicants request reconsideration of the definition of R₂.

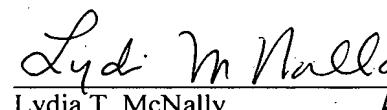
Claims 1 and 2 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101. Since these claims have been cancelled, the rejection is moot.

Claims 1-4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Since these claims have been cancelled, the rejection is moot.

Claims 11, 12 and 14 are drawn to non-elected subject matter and accordingly have been cancelled by the above amendments.

Claims 5-10, 13, 15, 16 and 17 are allowable if limited to the elected group. These claims have been amended herein to conform to the restriction requirement and Applicants assert that these claims are in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Lydia T. McNally

Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 36,214

Novartis
Corporate Intellectual Property
One Health Plaza, Building 430
East Hanover, NJ 07936-1080
(862) 778-7898

Date: May 18, 2005